

## Case 2897

***Agonus* Bloch & Schneider, 1801 (Osteichthyes, Scorpaeniformes): proposed conservation; AGONIDAE Kirby, 1837 (Insecta, Coleoptera) and AGONIDAE Swainson, 1839 (Osteichthyes, Scorpaeniformes): proposed removal of homonymy**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is to conserve the generic name *Agonus* Bloch & Schneider, 1801 for a single species. The name is threatened by the senior objective synonym *Aspidophorus* Lacépède, [1801], for which suppression is proposed. *Agonus cataphractus* (Linnaeus, 1758) is a common fish found in European northern seas and is of economic importance as a predator on young edible shellfish. It is also proposed that the homonymy between AGONIDAE Swainson, 1839 (Osteichthyes, Scorpaeniformes) and AGONIDAE Kirby, 1837 (Insecta, Coleoptera) be removed by emending the stem of the generic name *Agonum* Bonelli, 1810, on which the insect family-group name is based, to AGONUM-.

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1. Lacépède ([1801], p. 221) established the new genus *Aspidophorus* in vol. 3 of his *Histoire naturelle des poissons*, dated as 'An X' (23 September 1801–22 September 1802) of the French republican calendar. The volume was consistently dated as 1802 until Roux (1973) demonstrated that it appeared shortly before 16 October 1801, when Lacépède presented the published work to the French Academy of Sciences. Lacépède included two nominal species in *Aspidophorus*. Bory de Saint Vincent (1822, p. 27) designated *Cottus cataphractus* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species, which Lacépède included in the genus under the synonymy of his own *Aspidophorus armatus* Lacépède, [1801].

2. Linnaeus (1758, p. 264) based the description of his species *Cottus cataphractus* on two sources, Artdi's (1738) *Ichthyologia* (Genera piscium, p. 49; Synonymia, p. 77; and Descriptiones Specierum, p. 87) and Linnaeus's own (1754) *Museum Adolphi Friderici* (p. 70). Fernholm & Wheeler (1983, p. 236) accepted a specimen in the Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm (catalogue no. NRM 2808) as part of the type series.

3. Bloch & Schneider (1801, p. 104, pl. 27) established the genus *Agonus* to include four nominal species, among them *Cottus cataphractus* Linnaeus. It has proved impossible to ascertain the exact date of appearance of Bloch's work, published posthumously by Schneider (see Sheiko, [1993]), the earliest mention of the work known to me being that of 8 April 1802 in the journal *Göttingische Gelehrte Anzeigen unter der Aufsicht der königliche Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften* (1802, vol. 1, parts 56–57, p. 553). Under Article 21c(ii) of the Code publication must therefore be deemed to be 31 December 1801. The type species of *Agonus* is *C. cataphractus* Linnaeus by subsequent designation by Tilesius in Pallas ([1814], p. 109, footnote; see

Opinion 212, March 1954 for the date of publication of Pallas's work). Gill (1861, p. 161) cited *C. cataphractus* as the type species.

4. It follows that *Agonus* Bloch & Schneider is a junior objective synonym of *Aspidophorus* Lacépède. *Aspidophorus* was occasionally used as valid by authors in the first half of the 19th century (e.g. Bory de Saint Vincent, 1822, who commented 'C'est l'*Agonus* de Schneider') but all later authors have placed it in the synonymy of *Agonus*. The genus currently includes the single species *A. cataphractus* which is very common and is discussed in faunistic, ecological and experimental works. The most important works published in the last 50 years in which the name has appeared include Poll (1947), Saemundsson (1949), Andriashev (1954, 1986), Bruun & Pfaff (1950), Wheeler (1969, 1978), Joensen & Tåning (1970), Russell (1976) and Ilyina (1978). I propose that the name *Agonus* should be conserved by the suppression of *Aspidophorus*.

5. An application (Case 2918) for the conservation of the coleopteran name *Aspidiphorus* Ziegler in Dejean, 1821 by Dr Joseph V. McHugh (Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, U.S.A.) is published in BZN 52: 44-47 (March 1995). Dr McHugh has also proposed that the name *Aspidophorus* Agassiz, 1846 (an unjustified emendation of *Aspidiphorus* Ziegler and a junior homonym of *Aspidophorus* Lacépède, [1801]) be placed on the Official Index.

6. The family name AGONIDAE was established by Swainson (1839, pp. 181, 272) based on *Agonus* Bloch & Schneider, 1801. The name is in general use for a family which includes some 20 nominal genera and 45 nominal species. Members of this family are found in all the northern seas and also along the coasts of Chile and Argentina. Many species are very common and have considerable ecological importance.

7. The genus *Agonum* was described by Bonelli (1810). His *Observations entomologiques* appeared in two parts, part 1 in 1810 (*Mémoires de l'Académie Impériale des Sciences, Littérature et Beaux-Arts de Turin*, 18: 21-78) and part 2 in 1813 (*Mémoires de l'Académie Impériale ...*, 20: 433-484). *Agonum* appeared in Bonelli's *Tabula synoptica*, which was not published in either part in the *Mémoires* but which appeared (1810) with the reprints of part 1 (see Gaskin & Lewis, 1956; Madge, 1975; Liebherr, 1986). Part 1 of the *Observations entomologiques*, including the *Tabula synoptica*, was approved as an available work by the Commission in Opinion 1226 (September 1982). There were no species included in *Agonum* until Panzer (1813, p. 52) included 12 nominal taxa, among them *Carabus marginatus* Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 416). The latter was designated the type of *Agonum* by Curtis (1827, text to fig. 183; see Madge, 1975 for details).

8. The family AGONIDAE was established by Kirby (1837, p. 23) based on *Agonum* Bonelli, 1810. The name AGONIDAE is currently regarded as a junior synonym of PLATYNINI Bonelli, 1810 (see Habu, 1973, p. 70). The latter (originally published as 'Platynii') was based on *Platynus* Bonelli, 1810. The genera *Agonum* and *Platynus* are closely related (see Liebherr, 1986) and their names are often considered to be synonyms (see, for example, Habu, 1973; Kryzhanovskij, 1983). However, the possibility that at some time a family-group based on *Agonum* might be required cannot be excluded. I therefore propose that the homonymy between AGONIDAE Swainson, 1839 (Osteichthyes) and AGONIDAE Kirby, 1837 (Insecta) be removed by ruling that the stem of *Agonum* is AGONUM-.

9. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers:
  - (a) to suppress the generic name *Aspidophorus* Lacépède, [1801] for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
  - (b) to rule that for the purposes of Article 29 of the Code the stem of the generic name *Agonum* Bonelli, 1810 is AGONUM-;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *Agonus* Bloch & Schneider, 1801 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Tilesius in Pallas ([1814]) *Cottus cataphractus* Linnaeus, 1758;
  - (b) *Agonum* Bonelli, 1810 (gender: neuter), type species by subsequent designation by Curtis (1827) *Carabus marginatus* Linnaeus, 1758;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *cataphractus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Cottus cataphractus* (specific name of the type species of *Agonus* Bloch & Schneider, 1801);
  - (b) *marginatus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Carabus marginatus* (specific name of the type species of *Agonum* Bonelli, 1810);
- (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) AGONIDAE Swainson, 1839, type genus *Agonus* Bloch & Schneider, 1801 (Osteichthyes);
  - (b) AGONUMIDAE Kirby, 1837, type genus *Agonum* Bonelli, 1810 (spelling emended by the ruling in (1)(b) above) (Insecta);
- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Aspidophorus* Lacépède, [1801], as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
- (6) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology the name AGONIDAE Kirby, 1837 (spelling emended to AGONUMIDAE in (1)(b) above).

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